



ATF's *Protect the Public* activity includes goals to complement enforcement with training and prevention strategies through community, law enforcement, and industry partnerships, and to reduce public safety risk and consumer deception on regulated commodities. This is accomplished through three major programs: Community Outreach, Protect the Consumer, and Public Safety.

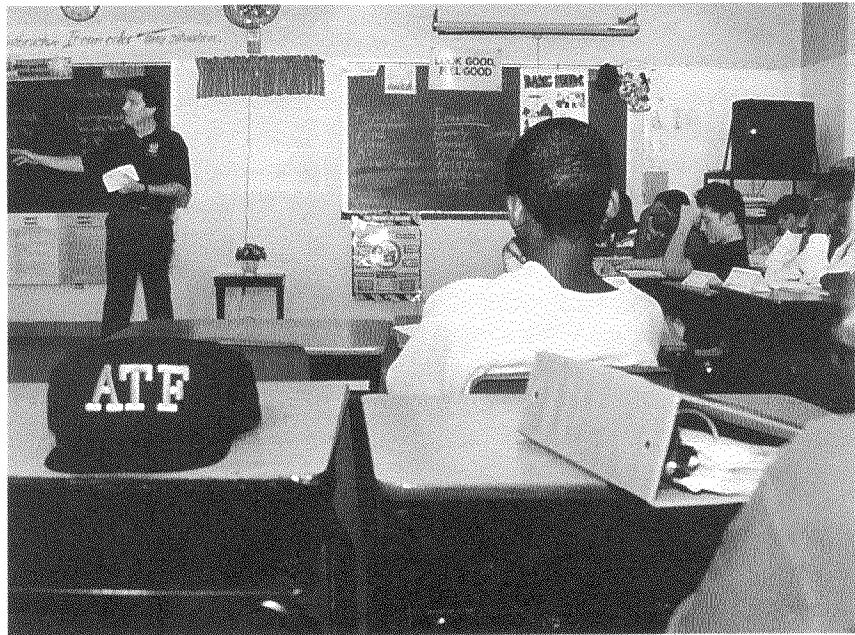
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Community Outreach Program focuses on community efforts designed to encourage and participate in the prevention of violence.

GREAT

ATF supports the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) project by providing oversight and administration. GREAT is a partnership of ATF, the Phoenix Police Department, and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, designed to use the expertise of each agency to provide gang prevention and anti-violence instruction to juveniles in a classroom setting. Since 1992, GREAT has certified approximately 2,000 Federal, state, and local officers as trainers. GREAT is taught in 46 states, Washington, D.C., Guam, Puerto Rico, and military bases in Germany and Japan.

An ATF Special Agent teaches a group of GREAT students.



GREAT		
	FY 1996	FY 1995
"Train-the-Trainer" classes	19	15
Police officers attending instructor training	599	504
Police departments sending officers to training	328	240
Juveniles graduating from GREAT*	221,000	504,000

*The FY 1995 figure for juveniles graduating from GREAT was an approximate cumulative figure since ATF's initial involvement in the program in 1992. The figure for FY 1996 is based on the number of certificates issued to graduates during FY 1996.

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Local and national response has been overwhelmingly positive. Preliminary results of a University of Nebraska long-term evaluation indicate that GREAT, in partnership with community policing, is perceived as having a major positive impact.

Administration and with regulatory agencies in many foreign countries. The laboratories exchange information on existing and new analytical methods and on product contamination or adulteration issues discovered by governmental laboratories, both domestic and foreign. This level of cooperation enhances ATF's proactive stance to ensure that contaminated or adulterated products do not reach the U.S. marketplace.

PROTECT THE CONSUMER

The Protect the Consumer Program ensures that commodities meet safety and product identity standards.

ATF conducts a full range of regulatory functions in the alcohol beverage industry. The Federal Alcohol Administration Act, passed shortly after the repeal of Prohibition, coupled with certain Internal Revenue Code provisions, authorizes ATF to fully regulate the industry and to provide protection to consumers of alcohol beverages.

Each year, through the market basket sampling program, ATF collects thousands of alcohol and tobacco products from the marketplace for analysis by ATF laboratories. If any problems or unsafe conditions are found, they are investigated by ATF inspectors and corrected.

ATF's laboratories work closely with counterparts at the U.S. Food and Drug

INDUSTRY AND STATE PARTNERSHIPS

ATF conducts seminars for firearms and explosives permittees and licensees, providing current information on the laws and regulations pertaining to these commodities. Through these seminars ATF has fostered various partnerships with firearms and explosive industry members to prevent tragedies stemming from the illegal use of firearms and explosives. Seminar attendees include industry officials, licensees, permittees, and state and local law enforcement officials.

INDUSTRY SEMINARS		
	FY 1996	FY 1995
Firearms	104	186
Explosives	26	38
Alcohol	33	11

Alcohol seminars focus on current compliance problems and industry issues. These seminars tripled in FY 1996, when the Federal Alcohol Administration Act Trade Practice Regulations were completely revised, resulting in a need to re-educate industry members.

The Bureau continues to expand partnerships with regulated industries and state governments. For example, the Office of Science and Information Technology initiated the Partnership Formula Approval Process, which was instituted for all beverage and flavor manufacturers after a successful trial program. This new business process was a result of a joint effort of ATF, the alcohol beverage industry, and the flavor industry. The result of this collective effort was a dramatic reduction in the average approval time required for flavored beverage alcohol products from eight weeks to less than two weeks.

ATF established liaisons with several governmental agencies working toward a common goal of public safety in the explosives industry. The Department of Transportation is supplying ATF with a list of its product approval numbers for use in determining the appropriate classification of explosive materials entering into commerce either through domestic production or through importation.

With the downsizing of the military, the Department of Defense began leasing parts of active military bases to private explosives businesses. As a result, ATF joined the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board to ensure that the enterprises on these facilities safely store and use explosives.

Because of the nature of Federal/state alcohol regulation rooted in the Twenty-First Amendment, ATF works closely with counterpart state liquor control and taxation agencies. Wherever possible, industry groups are also included.

Current cooperative efforts focus on making ATF a center for industry-related information by making a wide range of data, including pictures of approved alcohol beverage labels, available through automated systems. The goal is to enable states to decrease parallel requirements and systems, to provide more efficient and timely access to data, and to reduce delays to industry in marketing new products. ATF continues to benefit from the cooperation of many state agencies in notifying retail liquor dealers of the liability for payment of special occupational tax. Special occupational tax collections totaled \$108 million for FY 1996.

The 60-year-old Pittman-Robertson Act levies an 11 percent excise tax on the sales of guns and ammunition. For FY 1996, ATF collaborated with the Department of the Interior to distribute \$161 million from this tax to states for wildlife restoration projects.

In FY 1996, Congress passed the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act. Working with the international community, industry members and other affected groups, ATF is conducting a study to explore the feasibility of placing tracer elements in explosives materials for the purpose of detection and identification. At the conclusion of the study, the group will recommend to Congress the future options available that will make the illegal use of explosives materials more difficult. One option already implemented is a partnership between the

fertilizer industry and ATF, incorporating voluntary reporting of suspicious purchasers of ammonium nitrate to ATF.

CERTIFICATES OF LABEL APPROVAL

ATF is charged with protecting the consumer by preventing false or misleading claims on beverage labels and in advertising. The Bureau enforces the Government Health Warning Statement requirements, prohibits unbalanced and unsubstantiated health claims or misleading and deceptive claims, monitors industry advertising, and conducts investigations of suspected label fraud. With limited exceptions, ATF issues Certificates of Label Approval for every alcohol beverage offered for sale in the United States.

The Bureau remains strongly committed to customer service standards for label approval processing. At the end of FY 1996, ATF mailed approximately 1,400 customer satisfaction surveys to industry members. The results will be tabulated and reported in FY 1997.

ATF investigates anticompetitive business practices between alcohol beverage suppliers and retailers to preserve the retailers' economic independence. The Bureau also investigates consumer complaints of tainted or adulterated alcohol beverages.

CERTIFICATES OF LABEL APPROVAL		
	FY 1996	FY 1995
Approved labels on file	1,561,615	1,521,264
Applications for approval processed	57,131	59,730
Percentage processed within the ATF standard of 9 days	87.4%	92.3%

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Public Safety Program focus is to keep ineligible or prohibited persons out of the regulated industries and ensure that firearms and explosives are properly accounted for.

FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSES AND INSPECTIONS

The Gun Control Act of 1968 mandates that every manufacturer, importer, or dealer in firearms obtain a Federal Firearms License. ATF conducts inspections of applicants for Federal firearms licenses. During these inspections, ATF inspectors explain the Federal firearms laws and regulations, and determine if the applicants are bona fide candidates for a license. Where inspection reveals conflicts with state laws and local ordinances, inspectors make referrals to the appropriate regulatory agency, such as a zoning, occupancy, fire code, or law enforcement agency.

Once a licensee is engaged in business, inspectors ensure the licensee's compliance with Federal laws and specific recordkeeping regulations. ATF enforces the licensing provisions of the Gun Control Act of 1968 by conducting on-premises inspections.

ATF implemented procedures for routinely providing the Chief Law Enforcement Officer in each jurisdiction information on the status of Federal Firearms Licensees in that area.

Working in partnership with state and local law enforcement officials, ATF can effectively address licensing and illegal firearms trafficking problems.

In FY 1996, ATF made a priority shift to devote more resources to firearms applications inspections, ensuring that Federal Firearms Licensees are familiar

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FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSES AND INSPECTIONS		
	FY 1996	FY 1995
Federal Firearms Licensees (end of year)	135,794	191,495
New Applications		
Received	6,460	6,186
Licenses issued	6,691	5,467
Renewal Applications		
Received	37,350	29,729
Licenses issued	30,525	17,145
Application Inspections		
On-premises inspections	6,385	4,815
Renewal telephone inspections	21,795	10,822
Compliance Inspections		
On-premises inspections	10,051	13,141
Violations disclosed ¹	6,246	8,126

¹ Multiple violations could result from inspection of a single licensee.

* Measures reported in FY 1995 and discontinued in FY 1996:
New Applications Processed, Renewal Applications Processed

with applicable laws and regulations. Consequently, fewer staff hours were available to conduct compliance inspections.

“ATF maintains a regular program of on-site inspections to ensure that explosives are stored in approved facilities, which are secure from theft and located at prescribed distances from inhabited buildings, railways, and roads.”

EXPLOSIVES LICENSES AND INSPECTIONS

ATF recognizes the value of averting accidents and keeping explosives from the hands of those who are prohibited from possessing them. ATF enforcement provides a system of industry regulation, emphasizing a proactive approach to the problem. Similar to the case with firearms, all manufacturers, importers, and dealers are required to obtain a Federal license from ATF to conduct business; and certain users of explosives are required to obtain a Federal permit.

ATF maintains a regular program of on-site inspections to ensure that explosives are stored in approved facilities, which are secure from theft and located at prescribed distances from inhabited buildings, railways, and roads. These inspections ensure that the licensees and permittees keep accurate records of the receipt and disposition of explosive materials, which are verified through actual inventories of explosives in storage. Unusual discrepancies in records are referred immediately to the appropriate ATF Criminal Enforcement office for further investigation. Inspectors also conduct “forward trace” inspections on persons who purchase explosives without benefit of a license or permit for “same day use with no overnight storage.”

ATF initiated a program that requires each regulatory enforcement area office to notify the local fire department of licensees/permittees storing explosive materials and the location of the storage. This was done to aid in minimizing accidental injury to fire officials fighting fires in buildings or structures that may house explosive materials.

EXPLOSIVES LICENSES AND INSPECTIONS		
	FY 1996	FY 1995
Federal Explosives Licensees and Permittees (end of year)	10,341	10,061
New Applications		
Received	1,537	2,035
Licenses/permits issued	2,003	2,022
Renewal Applications		
Received	2,754	1,934
Licenses/permits issued	2,697	2,237
Application Inspections		
On-premises inspections	957	955
Compliance Inspections		
On-premises inspections	2,813	3,145
Violations disclosed	1,214	1,260
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NATIONAL FIREARMS ACT

The National Firearms Act requires that certain firearms be registered in what is known as the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. The firearms required to be registered are machine guns, silencers, short-barreled rifles, destructive devices, and certain concealable weapons classified as “any other weapons.” ATF processes all applications to make, export, transfer,

transport, and register the National Firearms Act firearms, as well as notices of the National Firearms Act firearms manufactured or imported.

NATIONAL FIREARMS ACT WEAPONS ACTIVITY		
	FY 1996	FY 1995
Firearms Registered	823,459	756,260
Documents Processed	242,054	218,293
Record Searches	5,744	5,677*

*Of the searches, 92% were associated with criminal investigations, while the remaining 8% were associated with firearms inspections.

- New measures being reported in FY 1996:
Firearms Registered
Documents Processed
Record Searches

FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION IMPORTATION

ATF regulates the importation of firearms, ammunition, and other defense-related articles through the issuance of import permits.

ATF maintains close liaison with the Department of State to ensure that the permits it issues do not conflict with the foreign policy and national security interests of the United States. At the direction of the Department of State, ATF lifted the arms trade restrictions imposed against the Russian Federation. Additionally, the Department of State subsequently directed ATF to lift the arms trade restrictions imposed against the Ukraine, Georgia, Kazakstan, Kyrgyztan, Moldova, Turkmeinstan, and Uzbekistan.

During FY 1996, ATF amended regulations pertaining to high-capacity ammunition magazines, allowing these articles to be imported into the United States, if the importer has documentation that the magazines were manufactured before September 14, 1994.

FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION IMPORTATIONS		
	FY 1996	FY 1995
Importer Registrations Received	328	298
Permit Applications Received	11,527	11,608

- New measures being reported in FY 1996:
Importer Registrations Received
Permit Applications Received